

36. (New) A process for preparing an isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a Gax protein that inhibits vascular smooth muscle cell proliferation comprising the following steps:

(a) providing a human cDNA library which comprises a cDNA molecule encoding a Gax protein;

(b) amplifying said cDNA molecule by a polymerase chain reaction using said cDNA molecule as a template and a pair of primers which bind under stringent conditions to the 5' end and the 3' end of the open reading frame sequence of SEQ ID. NO. 4, and

(c) isolating the product of the polymerase chain reaction.

37. (New) An isolated DNA molecule prepared by the process of claim 45.

38. (New) An isolated DNA molecule with a Gax protein comprising an amino acid sequence which is at least 97% identical to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ. ID. NO. 2 or the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ. ID. NO. 4.

39. (New) The DNA molecule of claim 47 wherein said Gax protein is a rat Gax protein and has a molecular weight of from about 30 kDa to about 36 kDa.

40. (New) The DNA molecule of claim 47 wherein said Gax protein is a human Gax protein and has a molecular weight of from about 30 kDa to about 36 kDa.

REMARKS

Claims 1-32 are pending in this application. Claims 2-27 are hereby canceled. The specification and claim 1 is amended. Attached hereto is a document entitled "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE" showing the additions as underlined and the deletions in brackets is attached hereto. New claims 33 to 40 are hereby added.

The specification has been amended to correct typographical errors and to add SEQ. ID. NOS. for the nucleotide sequences and amino acid sequences recited therein. The amendments add no new matter.

The substitute sequence listing which is attached hereto is the same as the computer readable form of the sequence listing which was filed on August 19, 1997, for the parent application. The substitute sequence listing adds no new matter.

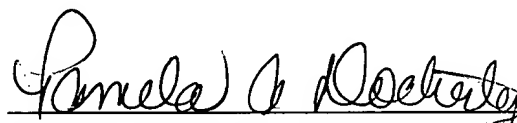
Support for amended claim 1 and new claims 39 and 40 is found on page 9, line 10 and/or lines 18-20. Support for new claim 33 is found on page 4, lines 6-8 and 20-22, and page 32, lines 26-30. Support for new claims 34 and 35 is found on page 15, lines 5-17 and Figures 3 and 4. Support for new claims 36 and 37 is found on page 12, lines 30-37 through page 16, lines 1-15, and page 22, lines 17-26. Support for new claims 38-40 is found in Figs 1 and 3 and SEQ ID NO.s 2 and 4.

It is submitted that the amended claims and new claims add no new matter.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1. (Amended) [A] An isolated DNA [sequence] encoding a mammalian Gax protein [or portion thereof] which inhibits vascular smooth muscle cell proliferation, said Gax protein having a molecular weight of about 30 to 36kDa and comprising a homeodomain, wherein the amino acid sequence of said homeodomain comprises amino acid 185 through amino acid 245 of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ. ID. NO. 4.

28. A method for inhibiting the proliferation of eukaryotic cells, comprising the following steps:

- a. providing a nucleic acid sequence encoding a Gax protein, or portion thereof, which inhibits smooth muscle cell proliferation; and
- b. administering said nucleic acid or said protein to the cells.

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